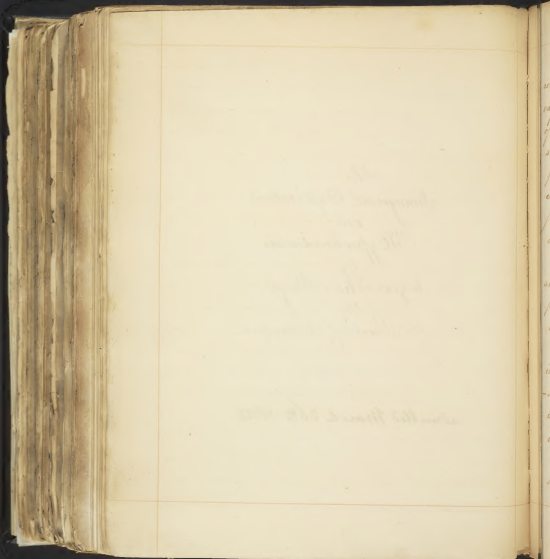


An
Inaugural Dissertation
on
Hyperchondriasis
by
Ezra Stiles Miigs
of the
District of Columbia.

March 9th 1822
21 and 22. New Haven

admitted March 26th 1822

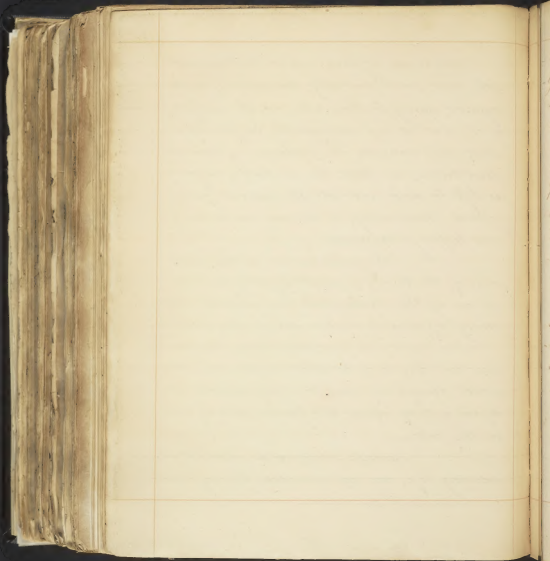


This is an affection which is often met with, and proves not only the source of most exquisite misery to those who are the subjects of it, but it not unfrequently baffles the skill and exhausts the patience of the practitioner, so that the unhappy sufferer is left to sink into all the horrors of confirmed Melancholy, or to drag on a weary and hopeless existence.

Hypochondriasis (in the strict sense of the term) is most frequently found in persons of the Melancholic temperament, and rarely appears before the age of Manhood.

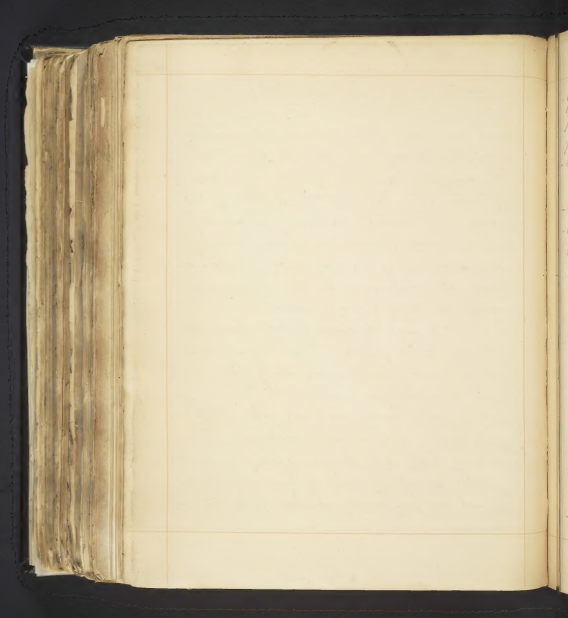
Its remote and proximate causes are various, and they may be either mental or physical; though by some, it is supposed to depend entirely upon the former, and by others on the latter.

Intense study, & an inactive & sedentary life, are apt to induce this affection,



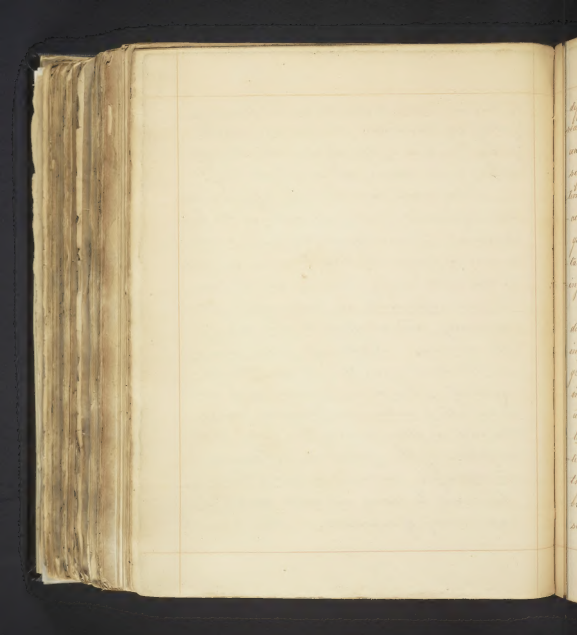
because a due proportion of exercise, is absolutely necessary to the health and well being of man and most other animals; the sudden disappointment of any favourite object; and the constant recollection of such loss; anxiety of mind; being long kept in a state of suspense; the immoderate use of intoxicating liquors; crude, flatulent, or unwholesome food; immoderate venery, or long continued exertions; and obstructions in the viscera, are among the most common causes.

Dr Cullen's definition of *Hypochondriasis*, is perhaps the very best; ^{It is} A languor, listlessness, or want of resolution and activity with respect to all undertakings; a disposition to seriousness, sadness, and timidity; as to all future events, an apprehension of the worst or most unhappy state of them; and therefore, often upon slight grounds, an apprehension of great evil. Such persons, are particularly attentive to the state —



of their own health, to even the smallest change of feeling in their bodies; and from any unusual feeling, perhaps of the slightest kind, they apprehend great danger and even death itself.²²

In certain cases there are different symptoms, dependant upon peculiarities in the remote causes. I have known the patient to be remarkably fearful of those, to whom in health he was most strongly attached; and at times he was seized with an extravagant fit of generosity, and at others he was miserly in the extreme. Costiveness is not always an attendant upon this disease, (though regularity of the alvine evacuations, is not to be expected; neither are spasmodic pains in the head or other parts of the body; but the complaints of the patient are very numerous and diversified, so much so, that a history of them would be tedious, and would disclose perhaps nothing of importance. There is much



difference of opinion, respecting the original seat of Hypochondriasis; and it seems that the advocates of either supposition, have not made sufficient allowances for the intimate connection and sympathy existing between the Stomach and Brain. That it may be either a gastric affection from the beginning, or a mental one, may I think be proved by the following examples.

Supposing that misfortune or disappointment in the attainment of any important object, or any thing which creates great anxiety of mind, should occur in an individual of the melancholic temperament; and whose digestive organs should be at the time, in the performance of their healthy functions; which is the part first affected? Does the disease here depend upon torpor of the brain, thereby producing the same effects on the stomach and system generally? Again; a-

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at the point of the long arm.

The internal structure of the
stomach is that of the "liver," the
vital, peristaltic, muscular wall of the
stomach is composed of a series of
muscles, the innermost of which is the
circular muscle, the outermost being the
longitudinal muscle. The stomach is
divided into two parts, the upper
part being the fundus, and the lower
part being the pylorus. The fundus is
the part of the stomach which is
situated above the pylorus, and the
pylorus is the part of the stomach
which is situated below the fundus.

The stomach is the organ of the
digestive system which receives the
food from the mouth, and in which
it is broken up into small particles
by the action of the stomach
muscles, and the gastric juice. The
stomach is situated in the upper
part of the abdominal cavity, and
is connected with the esophagus
by the pylorus. The stomach is
divided into two parts, the upper
part being the fundus, and the lower
part being the pylorus. The fundus
is the part of the stomach which is
situated above the pylorus, and the
pylorus is the part of the stomach
which is situated below the fundus.





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I have been thinking of you
 very much lately, and wondering
 how you are getting on. I hope
 you are well and happy. I am
 still the same old man, but
 I am getting on as well as
 I can. I am still in the
 same old place, but I am
 getting on as well as I can.



about the same time as the first one, and it was found to be very similar to the first one, and it was found to be very similar to the first one.

The first of these is the fact that the
 population of the country is increasing
 rapidly. This is due to a number of
 causes, including the fact that the
 country is fertile and the climate is
 healthy. The second cause is the fact
 that the country is well situated for
 trade. The third cause is the fact
 that the country is well governed.





My dear Mother
I received your letter of the 10th inst. and was
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope
these few lines will find you the same. I
am not at present in the best of health but
am improving. I have been out for a walk
and feel much better. I have not yet
received your letter of the 15th inst. but
hope it will come soon. I am
very affectionately
Yours
John



There is a great deal of
writing in this book, and it is
very interesting. The author
has written a great deal of
about the history of the
country, and the people who
lived there. He has also
written about the
government, and the
laws of the country.

The author has also
written about the
economy of the country, and
the way in which the
people live. He has also
written about the
religion of the country, and
the way in which the
people worship. He has also
written about the
education of the country, and
the way in which the
people are taught.



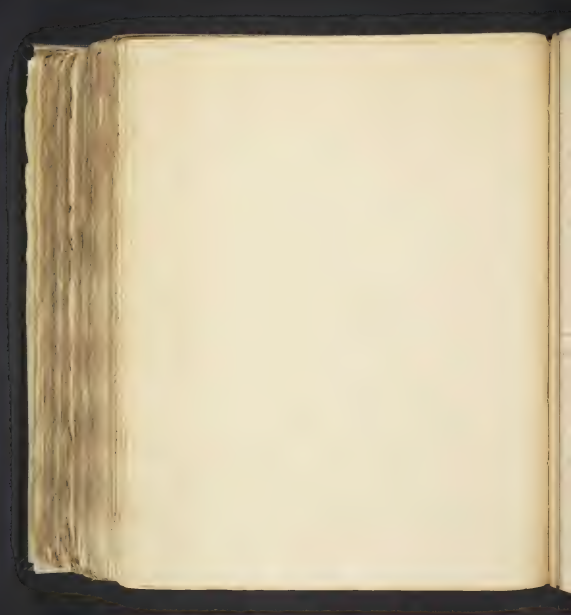
London, 17th Nov.

My dear Sir,
I have just received your letter of the 14th inst. in relation to the matter of the late Mr. [Name] and his estate. I am sorry to hear of the death of this gentleman, and am glad to hear that his estate is now in your hands. I have no objection to your proceeding in the manner you think proper, and I am sure you will do all that is just and equitable. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
[Signature]

P.S. I have just received a letter from Mr. [Name] of the 15th inst. in relation to the same matter. He is very anxious to see you, and I am sure you will be glad to see him. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
[Signature]



My dear Mother
I received your letter of the 10th inst. and was
glad to hear from you. I am well and hope
these few lines will find you the same. I
am not at home at present but I will
write you again as soon as I can. I am
very affectionately
Yours
John



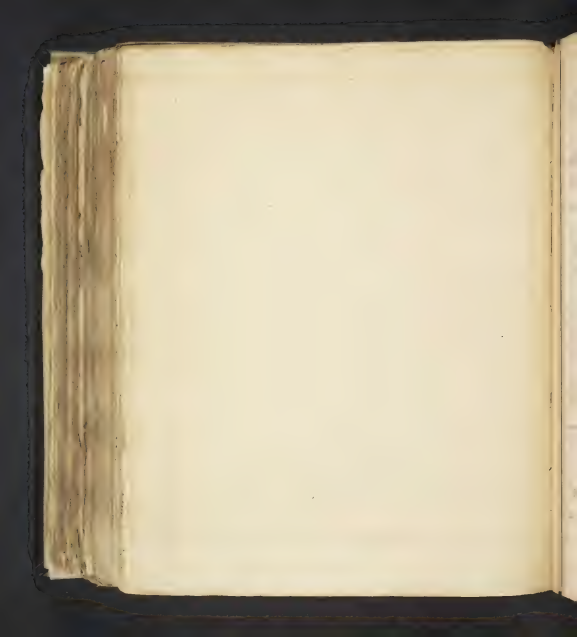


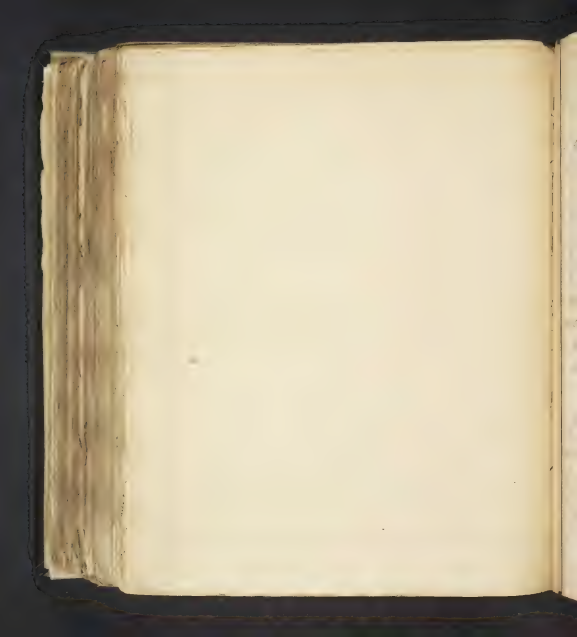












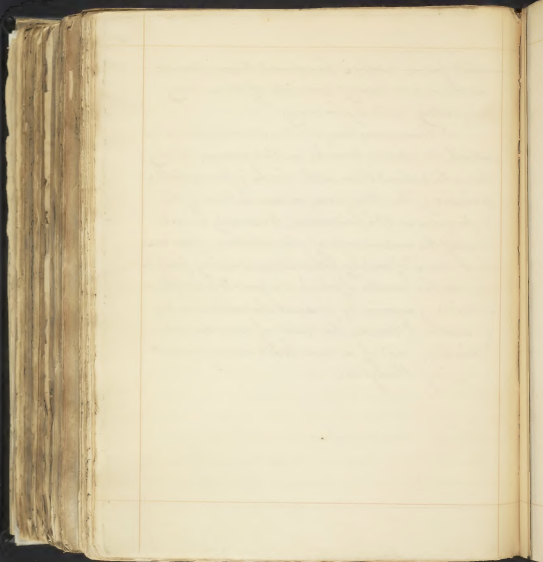


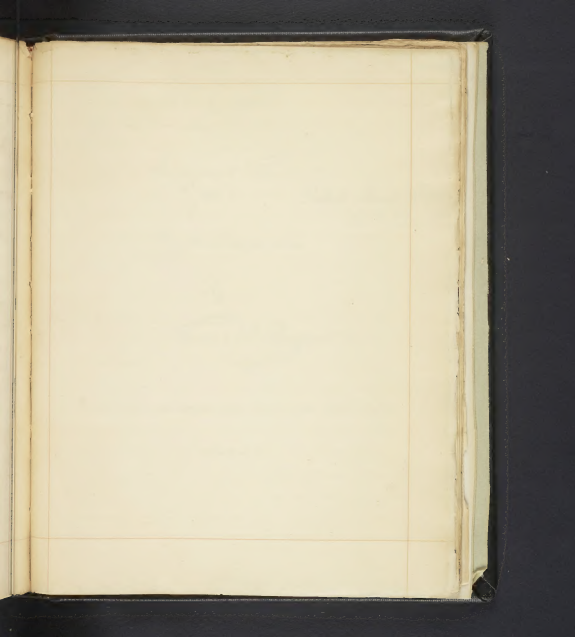




- will prove rather beneficial than otherwise, as there are many accounts of their being completely cured by so doing.

I have now brought to a close the observations which I intended to make on this disease; and beg leave to submit them with much deference to the perusal of the Proposers, aware as I am of the deficiencies in this production, I can only claim to myself the consciousness of good intentions, of an earnest desire of making future advances in my profession, in the practice of which I expect to find opportunities of acquiring by personal observations on the character of diseases, the habit of more correct thinking, and of a more lively arrangement of my thoughts.





Bynam